

633-5 S. DIVISION <sup>STREET</sup> AVENUE (HOUSE)  
Jeannette  
Westmoreland County  
Pennsylvania

HABS No. PA-5948

HABS  
PA  
65-JEAN,  
43-

PHOTOGRAPHS

REDUCED COPIES OF DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
P.O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

ADDENDUM TO:  
633-635 DIVISION STREET (HOUSE)  
Jeannette  
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HABS PA-5948  
*PA,65-JEAN,43-*

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001

## HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

### 633-635 DIVISION STREET (HOUSE)

HABS No. PA-5948

- LOCATION: 633-35 Division Street, Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania
- SIGNIFICANCE: A high concentration of window, tableware, bottle and specialty glass plants distinguished Jeannette as "The Glass City" early in its history. Significant housing stock consists of company-built row and detached double houses, and several privately constructed dwellings.

#### PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

This section of lots was undeveloped during the earlier phase of building in the neighborhood. H. Sellers McKee initially sold these lots to the National Glass Company after he divested his holdings in Jeannette. After several transfers, the property belonged to the reorganized McKee Glass Company. It is probable that the company built the double house since they are first assessed for the improvement in the 1915 tax records, but late in 1914, the property was transferred for an undisclosed amount to the company president, Andrew J. Smith, who was assessed for the house beginning in 1916. Rather than keeping this and other real estate holdings in Jeannette under his own name, Smith later sold his residential property to a real estate purchase, sales, and management company, the McKee Realty Company, mainly formed by himself and his sons in 1922. The corporation held the property until 1950, when the company's holdings were transferred Ray Sachs, one of the company's officers. Individual owners took title to the units beginning in the 1960s.

Though preference in renting the units may have been given to McKee Glass employees, city directories indicate that not all the residents were connected with the company. In 1923, there were couples (only adults are noted) living in No. 633, with Norman Cook listed as a cabinet-maker and Lawrence Cruciana shown as a laborer. In 1928, a total of four couples are listed as living in the house, and two of the heads of the households were associated with McKee Glass.

#### PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

An unusual late double house for this neighborhood, this 1914-15 house retains the urban rectangular form characteristic of the earliest buildings on the south side of Jeannette. The building is brick veneer with decorative brick corbelling at the cornice under a stone

parapet cap. The two separate front entry doors are found on only one other house in the neighborhood, and unlike other double houses in the study area, this house has no covered front porch. The rear ells and porch appear to be original, but a second floor enclosure has been added over the rear porch of No. 635.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

*Insurance Maps of Jeannette, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.* New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1916, 1925.

Deed Books. Recorder of Deeds, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 291/14, 468/386, 481/461, 554/454, 555/153, 721/171, 1393/265, 2258/914, 2265/880, 1841/651, 1901/171, 2283/947.

City Directories, 1897, 1913, 1923, 1928, 1948, 1960.

Tax Assessment Books. Westmoreland County Tax Assessment Office, Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania.

Corporation Books. Westmoreland County Courthouse, Greensburg, Pennsylvania, 15/203.

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

In February 1987, the Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) and the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) began a multi-year historical and architectural documentation project in southwestern Pennsylvania. Carried out in conjunction with America's Industrial Heritage Project (AIHP), HABS and HAER undertook a comprehensive documentation of Jeannette, documenting industries, housing and cultural institutions.